Dr. E. has chosen to bestow upon them. The consequence of this will be that very many of the names that Dr. E. has imposed must upon the further elaboration of the family fall into synonyms by those very laws of priority to which in some of his preceding works he has so inflexibly adhered by restoring Fabrician names, upon his consultation of the Fabrician cabinet, to insects which had been renamed subsequently by others owing to the imperfection of the original Fabrician diagnostics. This manifestly evinces very unscientific caprice; for surely the characters in Stephens's work are *never less* characteristic than those in Fabricius, and he therefore has an equal claim to the priority which his date of publication gives him. But time and common justice will set this affair to rights. We cannot here go into a detailed examination of the work before us. It will suffice to observe that a second part is to complete it, which was promised to have been published ere this,—and that it embraces all the *Staphylini*, exotic as well as European. The generic and specific characters are very carefully drawn, and the former aided by figures of the trophi, and in a few instances of the insects themselves. The work as far as yet published comprises an introductory generalization upon their natural characters, affinities, external structure, internal structure, metamorphoses, habits of life, geographical distribution, history of their systematic arrangement, and this is followed by the author's distribution into eleven tribes, viz. 1. Aleocharini; 2. Tachyporini; 3. Staphylinini; 4. Pæderini; 5. Pinophilini; 6. Stenini; 7. Oxytelini; 8. Piestini; 9. Phlæocharini; 10. Omalini; 11. Proteinini. A tabulation follows of the genera comprised in these tribes, and this is succeeded by the body of the work, and the portion now published includes the first two tribes and a part of the third: on its completion we shall enter more into detail upon the subject.

The Petrified Insects of Solenhofen, described by Professor Germar of Halle, with Three Lithographic Plates. In the Nova Acta Physico-Medica Academiæ Cæs. Leopol. Carol. Naturæ Curiosorum. Vol. XIX. Pt. I.

The learned Professor, whose labours in entomology the lovers of sound science can well appreciate, gives us here an account of 18 insects discovered in the limestone formation of Solenhofen. He had previously described 25 from the lignite of Rod and Arzberg in the Seven Mountains on the Rhine and of Bayreuth. The paper is accompanied by twenty lithographic figures, which greatly assist the descriptions, and indeed without which the latter would be al-

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most useless. We should much like, for the sake of our geological as well as entomological readers, to give a translation of his prefatory observations, which contain a synopsis of all that is yet known of fossil entomology, and also many useful observations directing us in the determination of the existence of insects without their actual presence; and in methods for facilitating the discovery of collateral evidence of the same fact: to this however we may possibly return, as it is a subject replete with interest. The application of trivial names to such mutilated remains is a vain and hopeless endeavour to enlarge our knowledge of species, and can scarcely answer any end, especially when we reflect what nice discrimination is frequently required to determine *recent* species, in the best state of preservation; and in a fossil state the same individual species, from the variety of states of preservation in which it may come down to us, would be thus propagated into as many species, from their presenting no tangible means of identification. All therefore that we can reasonably hope for in fossil entomology is a knowledge of the genera peculiar to certain geological formations and their contemporaneous zoology and botany. Of course it will be understood that we exclude from this sweeping condemnation insects preserved in amber and copal, in which substances they usually retain their pristine perfection. We must however be thankful that this uninviting task has fallen into hands which can enliven with great interest a subject apparently so barren.

Transactions of the Berwickshire Naturalists' Club.

The unassuming Transactions of this locally useful Club, printed for private circulation among its members and their friends, has been kindly forwarded to us. The exertions of the Club are continued, and we now have the result of their labours during 1839, commencing with the Annual Address of the President, the Rev. T. Knight, Vicar of Ford.—Next a "Notice regarding the Cessation of the Flow of the river Teviot" on 27th Nov. 1838; by Dr. Douglas of Kelso: which proves that it was occasioned by accumulation of ice.—"On the effects produced on Animal and Vegetable Life by the Winter of 1838;" by P. J. Selby, Esq. of Twizel House: a Paper very interesting to compare with the season in other parts of Britain and Ireland.—"Meteorological Observations made at the Abbey St. Bathon's, Berwickshire."—"On the Metamorphosis of *Balanus punctatus* of Montague;" by the Rev. T. Riddel, Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge.—"A description of the Cephalopoda which inhabit the coast of Berwickshire;" by Dr. Johnston.—"On the Nests of the Fifteen-spined Stickleback, or *Gasterosteus spinachia* of Linnæus."—

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